

REMARKS

Claims 4-9, 19, 20 and 23 are now pending in the application. Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 19 and 20 have been amended and Claim 23 is newly presented. Bases for the amendments and support for the new claim can be found throughout the application, claims and drawings as originally filed and as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS & ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office has indicated that Claims 4, 9, 19 and 20 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicant has presented Claims 9 and 19 in an independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim and as such, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant has presented Claims 4 and 20 in an independent form that includes all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, but Applicant has amended the phrase "wherein the first overmold portion fills each of the grooves" to "wherein the first overmold portion at least partially fills each of the grooves". Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 3,662,569 does not teach or suggest the partial filling of grooves in a trunnion assembly or a first bearing and as such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 4 and 20 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that Claims 5 through 8 have been amended to depend from Claim 4 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth for Claim 4, above.

Applicant notes that newly presented Claim 23 includes "overmold means" that is employed to removably secure at least one of the first and second sets of bearings to an associated one of the first and second body portions. Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 3,662,569 does not teach or suggest overmold means for removably securing a set of bearings to a body portion and as such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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